Disruptive activities of the Tripura National Volunteer guerillas

288. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tribal National Volunteer guerillas are very active in Tripura and its adjoining areas;

(b) what is the number of persons including civilians who have been killed by TNV during the last six months;

(c) whether these TNV guerillas are being supplied sophisticated arms by some foreign powers and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what precautionary measures have been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) The Tripura (Tribal) National Volun teers (TNV) have been indulging in violent activities in Tripura.

(b) The number of persons killed by TNV during the last six months (15-10-1983 to 15-4-1986) is 32 including civilians.

(c) Nothing specific has yet been known to establish the reported supply of sophisticated arms to TNV by foreign powers.

(d) The State Government of Tripura lias been requested to utilise provisions of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 to curb the activities of extremists. Para-military forces have also been placed at the disposal ofthe State Government. Vigil on the borders has been stepped up. A programme for strengthening border outposts in north-east has been approved.

Launching of INSAT-ID

289. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present state of serviceability of our communication satellites and their capacity utilization;

(b) what progress has been made with regard to plans on INSAT -D;

(c) the date on which INSAT i-D is likely to come into operation; and

(d) what benefits are likely to be derived by the country from the operation of satellites ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The performance of the operational INSAT-iB satellite, which has completed 31 months in orbit and over 29 months of operational service, continues to be satisfactory. All its four service functions, namely, telecom-munication transponders, high power TV transponders, Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR), the meteorological imaging instrument and Data Relay Transponder, arc in operation. The planned utilisation of INSAT-iB capacity upto end of 1985-86 has been achieved. The End of Life (EOL) of INSAT-tB is presently predicted as late 1989/earIy I99°-

(b) and (c) Work on INSAT i-D spacecraft, started with effect from October 1985, is progressing satisfactorily. The spacecraf readiness is scheduled for mid-1988 and its launch is expected in the Octolier 1988—September 1989 period; the satellite will be operations lised thereafter.

(d) The broad areas in which the country can derive benefits from operational applications satellites are, satellite-based:

—-telecommunications, TV and Radio networking and direct TV Broadcasting-.

—remote sensing for resources survey and management.

—environmental monitoring and meteorological services.

Air pollution in Major Cities in the Conntry

290. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated contribution of motor vehicles to air pollution in major cities ofthe country;

(b) what means have been adopted to check pollution from diesel exhaust particularly those of Government vehicles;

(c) whether any research has been conducted on the use of appropriate additives to diesel or that of external devices such as catalytic convertors; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) It is estimated to range from 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

(b) The following measures have been adopted:

—Emission standards have been pre-scribed for phased implementation;

—Vehicle manufacturers have been asked to make necessary changes in the design of vehicles to reduce emissions;

—-Facilities for smoke monitoring have been set up by the Transport authorities in some major cities; and

—A system for compulsory fitness certificate for old vehicles has been introduced.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir; preliminary studies have been conducted the results of which indicate the possibility of considerable reduction in emissions.

Pollution due to dust and Microflora

291. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding pollution due to dust and microflora during harvesting ;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above above be in the negative whether such a proposal is under consideration; and

(d) whether any major scientific plan has been devised to check pollution by the burning of agricultural residues like wheat straw, rice husk and bagasse etc. and instead recycle them economically ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The results indicate high levels of dust during tillage of soil and inci-ence ofmocroflora due to high mois-ture content in rice and groundunt.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.